protective work of the Farakka Barrage Project, both upstream and downstream; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Bank protection works in vulnerable reaches both upstream and downstream of the Farakka Barrage and also at Jangipur Barrage have been attended to as advised by the Technical Advisory Committee from time to time, to the extent they are required for safety and smooth operation of the structures of the Farakka Barrage Project. Normally, protection works from the left guide bundh of the Farakka Barrage upto Spur No. 7 on the upstream left bank of river Ganga, protection works in a 6 km. reach on the right bank of river Ganga downstream of Farakka Barrage and protection works of the right bank of Ganga in about 16 km. reach at Jangipur Barrage, come under this category.

Tobacco Wastes as an Effective Pesticide

2195. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tobacco wastes are effective against pest as identified by the Central Tobacco Research Institute, Rajahmundry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to commercially exploit this nicotine-based pesticide and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The effectiveness of nicotine based pesticides developed from tobacco waste has been demonstrated against soft-bodied insects like aphids, white-flies and leaf hoppers.

(c) and (d) A technology for processing of nicotine sulphate as pesticide using tobacco waste has been developed by the Central Tobacco Research Institute. It is proposed to establish a pilot plant for testing commercial viability of this method.

Joint Basin Authority for Cauvery River

2196. SHRI V. SHEENIVASA PRASAD:

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to setup a joint Basin Authority for Cauvery river in order to enable the riparian States to discuss matters relating to optimum utilisation of Cauvery waters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Telephone connection in Solapur District of Maharashtra

2197. SHRI DHARAMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on the waiting list for new telephone connections in Solapur District of Maharashtra, Category-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Waiting list

category-wise in Solapur district as on 30-6-91.

OYT	752
Non OYT Spl.	640
Non OYT Gen.	5731
Total	7123

(b) Expansion plans have been drawn for clearing the waiting list progressively during the Eighth Plan period. At Solapur an expansion of existing electro mechanical exchange by 1200 lines has been planned for 1991-92.

Sutlej-Yamuna link Canal Project

2198. SHRI RAM SINGH RAO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the work completed on the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal Project; and

(b) the time by which the Project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The details of work completed on the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal Project are as under:—

Item	*Unit*	*Total Quantity*	*Quantity completed by June 1990*
1. Earthwork	lakh cubic metre	440.75	428.82
2. Lining	lakh sq. m.	53.22	50.65
3. Major cross Drainage works .	Nos.	11	10
4. Medium Cross Drainage works	Nos.	41	37
5. Village Road Bridges . .	Nos.	58	50
6. National Highway Bridges .	Nos.	5	5
7. State Road Bridges . .	Nos.	10	6
8. Railway Bridges . . .	Nos.	3	1 (only linking of tracks is to be done in remaining 2 bridges.)

Work was in progress in July 1990 on the remaining structures as also in the reach km 67—km 81, which was damaged in the 1988 floods, and the reach km 2.54 to km 3, where resectioning was to be done, when work came to a halt following the killing of the Chief Engineer and a Superintending Engineer.

(b) The Government of Punjab have been advised to engage appropriate agency/agencies to complete the balance works. The time schedule for completion will depend on the nature and the capacity of the new agency/agencies that will be engaged by the Government of Punjab.

Passport Applications Pending in Regional Passport Offices, Kerala

2199. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

SHRI P. C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passport applications pending in Regional Passport Offices in Kerala, Office-wise;

(b) the reasons for their pendency;